




# Overview of the **Specific International Programme** and sharing of lessons learned from completed projects

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 11h00 - 12h00 CEST



# Housekeeping notes

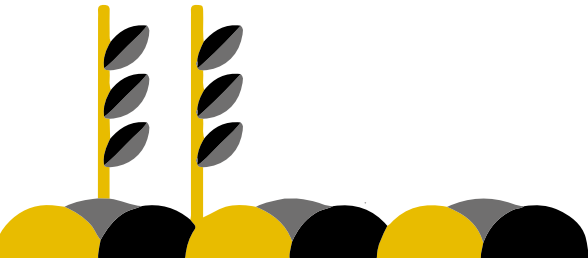
- ▶ If the moderator opens the floor, and if you wish to take the floor, please click the **Raise Hand** icon that appears next to your name on the Participants panel.  

- ▶ The moderator will call names based on the order of raised hands and allow you to unmute. When you are named, please **unmute** yourself and speak. When your speaking is over, kindly **mute** yourself and click the **Lower Hand** icon.  
 
- ▶ You may also wish to type question(s) in the chat box and send to “everyone”.
- ▶ If you need any **technical assistance**, please put your message in the chat box and send it to the host or co-host.
- ▶ Kindly note that this session is being **recorded** and **broadcast live on YouTube**.
- ▶ Please help us to keep improving the experience by **filling out the survey** at the end of this webinar.

# Gender considerations in projects funded by the SIP : Case studies

**Pre-COP-6 Online Event “Overview of the Specific International Programme and sharing of lessons learned from completed projects”**

*15 October 2025*

*11:00 – 12:00 CEST*



# Case studies on gender dimensions of SIP projects

- ❖ COP-5 decision MC-5/15 welcomed the **gender action plan** (COP.5/INF/10) and invited the Secretariat and Parties to carry out activities to implement it;
- ❖ **Possible activities** to be carried out by the Secretariat and Parties to advance the gender action plan during the biennium 2024–2025 are outlined in document **COP.5/18**;

## Annex I

### Possible activities to be carried out by the secretariat and parties to advance the gender action plan during the biennium 2024–2025

1. On the basis of the gender action plan, the following activities could be carried out by the secretariat under the programme of work for 2024–2025, subject to the availability of resources from core and voluntary contributions:
  - (a) Review, according to gender considerations, of national reports submitted by parties under article 21 to identify measures related to the control of mercury-added products used primarily by women and children, such as cosmetics and dental amalgam;
  - (b) Review of gender elements in existing national action plans submitted by parties pursuant to subparagraph 3 (a) of article 7 to establish a baseline for future reviews of national action plans, in collaboration with the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;
  - (c) Development of case studies on the gender dimensions of projects funded by the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance;

Voluntary  
contribution  
from Finland

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PROJECTS: CASE STUDIES

from the Specific International  
Programme to Support Capacity-  
Building and Technical Assistance



Scientific and  
technical series

UN  
environment  
programme



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

- ❖ **More information** on the gender action plan and gender-related activities is available on the Convention's website at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>.

# Objective, expected results and methodology of the study

Tool to review integration of gender aspects in SIP projects

## Objective:

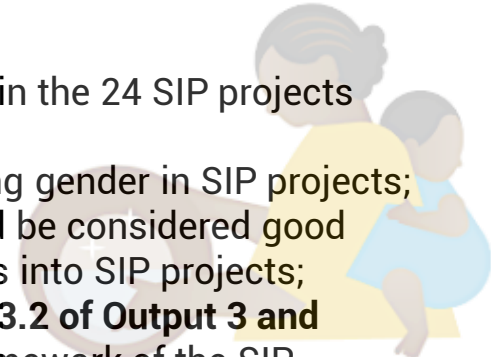
To highlight successful **gender integration elements and activities** from various SIP projects.

## Expected results:

- ❖ To complete **activity 1 (c)** of COP-5 doc 18, Annex I;
- ❖ To provide useful **information and examples** on how to integrate the gender dimension into SIP projects;
- ❖ To provide SIP donors, the SIP Governing Board and the COP with information on how the **SIP is supporting Parties** in advancing gender mainstreaming;
- ❖ To collect information and data for the **Results Framework** of the SIP.

## Methodology:

- ❖ Analysis of the **gender elements** contained in the 24 SIP projects approved in the first 3 rounds;
- ❖ **3 projects as case studies** on mainstreaming gender in SIP projects;
- ❖ **Elements from other SIP projects** that could be considered good examples on integrating gender dimensions into SIP projects;
- ❖ Information and data to populate **indicator 3.2 of Output 3 and indicator 4.2 of Output 4** of the Results Framework of the SIP.



GENDER DIMENSIONS OF SIP PROJECTS		
	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING	INFORMATION FROM SIP PROJECT
IN THE DESIGN (PROJECT APPLICATION)	1. Development of gender responsive policy or strategy documents	
	2. Development of gender-related reports/studies/data	
	3. Gender roles and participation (e.g. promotion of multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure effective participation of different groups, including women, in policy/regulatory development processes, decision-making, task involvement)	
	4. Engagement/consultation of gender-related organizations, such as women associations, gender experts, gender champions etc.	
	5. Generation of sex-disaggregated data that reflects the impacts of mercury pollution	
	6. Planning and organization of awareness raising activities that educate relevant stakeholders, such as the general public, on the gender-differentiated and socially-determined impacts of mercury management	
	7. Creation of terms of reference for project staff that ensure equal opportunity for women and men, and where applicable, require skills/expertise in gender	
	8. Monitoring of benefits, participation, and feedback among women and men during project activities, and incorporation of remedial actions that promote gender equality as appropriate	
	9. Well-elaborated gender section	
	10. Inclusion of gender-specific outputs and/or activities in the Logical Framework	
IN THE IMPLEMENTATION (OPERATIONAL REPORTING)	11. Inclusion of gender-specific indicators (including baselines and targets) in the Logical Framework	
	1. Reporting of information on women's involvement in the activities	
	2. Provision of sex-disaggregated data	
IN THE EVALUATION (FINAL REPORTING AND TERMINAL REVIEW/EVALUATION)	3. Submission of gender-related studies/reports	
	1. Development of gender-related products	
	2. Development of gender-related regulations	
	3. Participation of women in project staffing	
	4. Engagement of women associations	
5. Generation of gender-specific impact		

# Gender considerations in the SIP

## Application guidelines for the Fourth Round of applications to the SIP



### Application Guidelines Specific International Programme

Fourth Round of Applications

Call for Applications opened on 24 April 2024  
Deadline for Submission is 31 July 2024

These application guidelines are structured as follows:

- Chapter 1** The first chapter addresses key questions about applications to the Specific International Programme.
- Chapter 2** The second chapter provides more information on how projects are screened and appraised under the Specific International Programme.
- Chapter 3** The third chapter sets out how to conceptualise and develop a project for the Specific International Programme, including the logical framework, workplan and the budget.
- Chapter 4** The fourth chapter gives specific information on how to complete the various parts of the application, namely:
  - Form A Project Application
  - Form B Project Budget
  - Form C Letter of Transmittal

**FORM A – PROJECT APPLICATION**  
Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Fourth Round of Applications: 2024-2025

*Read the Application Guidelines carefully before filling in the Application Form. Please complete all the sections of this Form and do not delete any part.*

**1. PROJECT SUMMARY**

<b>1.1. Applicant Government and Applicant Government Institution</b>	Applicant Government	
	Applicant Government Institution	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	Applicant Government Official
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
	Functional Title	
<b>1.2. Project Title</b>	Section / Department	
	Address	
	Telephone	
	E-mail	
<b>1.3. Budget</b>		
<b>1.4. Duration</b>		
<b>1.5. Country Status</b>	Date of Ratification or Accession:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing Country <input type="checkbox"/> Least Developed Country (LDC) <input type="checkbox"/> Small Island Developing State (SIDS) <input type="checkbox"/> Country with Economy in Transition (CEIT)	
<b>1.6. Relevant Convention Articles</b>		
<b>1.7. Project Summary</b>		

## Application forms for the Fourth Round of applications to the SIP

## Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal review and terminal evaluation



### Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal review

#### I. Overview

These guidelines are intended to help project partners implementing a Specific International Programme project as they conduct the terminal review according to the Programme projections and the broader UNEP Evaluation Office requirements. The project implementer should assign an individual or institution to complete an objective self-critical assessment of the project's performance as measured by the project's design, implementation and monitoring strategy, achievements and proposed sustainability/exit strategies against the six specified evaluation criteria provided by the UNEP evaluation policy. The evaluation criteria are:

1. Relevance (Did the intervention do the needs and challenges identified?)
2. Coherence (How well did the intervention fit in the country, sector etc.)
3. Efficiency (How well were resources used to achieve desired results in a timely manner?)
4. Impact (What difference did the intervention make?)
5. Sustainability of outcomes (To what extent will the net benefits of the intervention continue?)
6. Effectiveness (Did the intervention achieve its objectives?)

Figure 1. Summary of steps involved in the terminal review exercise.

Each project's outputs will be assessed against the applicable evaluation criteria. Figure 1 sums up the entire process of carrying out a terminal review.



### Guidelines for conducting a SIP project terminal evaluation

Terminal Evaluation of the Project under the Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Project Title and Project Reference Number

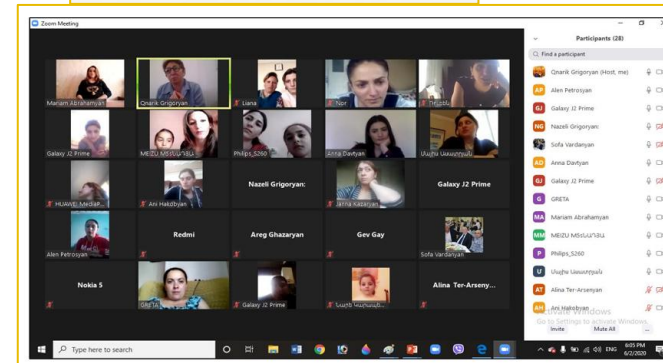
20XX – 20XX

#### 1. PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>1.1. Implementing Government and Implementing Government Institution</b>	Implementing Government	
	Implementing Government Institution	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	Project Focal Point
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
	Functional Title	
Section / Department		
Address		

## Key examples on how to integrate gender dimensions in SIP projects, based on the case studies:

- ❖ **Analysis of differentiated impacts of mercury, and development of gender-responsive data and documents** (Argentina's report on "Mercury and Gender Issues", Armenia's survey in 9 provinces);
- ❖ **Inclusive stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising** (awareness-raising campaigns, workshops and seminars for groups in vulnerable situations, active participation of women and girls);
- ❖ **Gender considerations in project management and implementation** (women project focal points and women in the implementation teams);
- ❖ **Inclusion of gender-specific outputs, indicators and targets in the project logical framework.**



# SIP projects: other examples of gender dimensions

Round of applications	Project	Gender considerations
First Round	Islamic Republic of Iran	Gender-based health and safety risk assessment
Second Round	Antigua and Barbuda	Lab studies, tests on skin-lightening products
	Peru	Mercury risks assessment, engagement of women
	Zambia	Raise awareness on skin-lightening creams and soaps
Third Round	Rwanda	Gender-specific activities and indicators in logical framework

## SKIN LIGHTENING CREAMS RISK REDUCTION MEASURES FOR ZAMBIA

### Why skin lightening creams are an issue

- Most cosmetics contain mercury
  - mercury lightens the skin
- However,
- WHO declared it a major public health concern
  - Minamata Convention established a limit of 1ppm
  - Most cosmetics are above this limit

## SKIN LIGHTENING PRODUCTS ON THE ZAMBIAN MARKET



- lotions;
- soaps;
- serums;
- creams; and
- oils.



# Completing the SIP Results Framework: Indicator 3.2 and Indicator 4.2

## SIP Results Framework

### Results Framework



**Outcome:**  
Improved capacity of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet their legally-binding obligations under the Minamata Convention (including those on mercury supply, trade, stocks, use, emissions, releases, storage, waste and contaminated sites) as a result of SIP support

**Indicator:**  
Number of countries with improved capacity to meet their obligations under the Minamata Convention (disaggregated by SIDS/LDC/DC/CEIS)

Output 1: National/regional strategies, plans for environmentally-sound management of mercury and mercury compounds	Indicator 1.1: Number of countries with new or updated national plans or strategies (disaggregated by relevant Convention articles)
Output 2: National legislation/regulations for environmentally-sound management of mercury and mercury compounds established	Indicator 2.1: Number of countries with laws developed or strengthened (disaggregated by relevant Convention articles)
Output 3: Human and institutional capacity in national agencies improved	Indicator 3.1: Number of countries where relevant staff in national agencies have been trained Indicator 3.2: Number of relevant staff of national/regional agencies who have been trained (disaggregated by sex)
Output 4: Technical capacity and awareness for relevant sectors improved	Indicator 4.1: Number of countries with targeted training and awareness raising programmes (disaggregated by sector) Indicator 4.2: Number of persons targeted with training and/or awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by sex) Indicator 4.3: Number of stakeholder group targeted with training and/or awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by type of group)
Output 5: Systems for monitoring and assessment to meet policy needs established or strengthened	Indicator 5.1: Number of countries with improved systems to monitor and assess mercury and mercury compounds in various media
Output 6: SIP is effectively managed and Governing Board is supported	Indicator 6.1: Number of Governing Board meetings held Indicator 6.2: Number of applications rounds completed Indicator 6.3: Number of projects screened, reviewed and appraised by the Secretariat Indicator 6.4: Number of projects approved by the Governing Board
Output 7: Adequate funds for supporting SIP operations and country projects	Indicator 7.1: Funds contributed to the Specific Trust Fund Indicator 7.2: Funds approved for disbursement to Parties Indicator 7.3: Funds required for funding qualified projects

Table 2: Indicators 3.2 and 4.2 of the SIP Results Framework

Output 3: Human and institutional capacity in national agencies improved	<p><b>Indicator 3.2: Number of relevant staff of national/regional agencies who have been trained (disaggregated by sex)</b></p> <p><b>Argentina:</b> 500 individuals were trained (57.5% female and 31% male)</p> <p><b>Republic of Moldova:</b> 10 representatives took part in a study visit in Romania (7 women and 3 men); 4 representatives took part in a study visit in Germany (3 women and 1 man); 20 national stakeholders participated in a training session (11 women and 9 men)</p>
Output 4: Technical capacity and awareness for relevant sectors improved	<p><b>Indicator 4.2: Number of persons targeted with training and/or awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by sex)</b></p> <p><b>Argentina:</b> 15,000 individuals reached through awareness-raising activities (no gender-disaggregated information)</p> <p><b>Armenia:</b> 170 individuals reached through online workshops and seminars (no gender-disaggregated information)</p> <p><b>Republic of Moldova:</b> 193 individuals involved in project activities (128 women and 65 men); communication materials distributed in 1,231 schools, reaching an estimated 31,580 teachers and 33,199 students (no gender-disaggregated information)</p>

**Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

United Nations Environment Programme

11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

**WEB:** [www.minamataconvention.org](http://www.minamataconvention.org)

**MAIL:** [MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org](mailto:MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org)

**X:** [@minamataMEA](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)

[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)



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programme






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# SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME SECOND ROUND

## PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN CAPACITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION IN ECUADOR

PROJECT OBJECTIVE	PROJECT SUMMARY	PROJECT MANAGEMENT
<p>The overall objective of this project was to strengthen the country's capacity to control national mercury emissions and releases and contribute to the identification of priority actions to address emissions and releases within the framework of the Minamata Convention.</p>	<p>The project identified significant sources of mercury emissions and releases, identified mercury concentrations in water, air, soil, and sediments, and evaluated the optimization of existing relevant processes, technologies, and infrastructure in Ecuador. The project resulted in an <b>action plan</b> that includes management strategies and proposals to strengthen the legal framework for the implementation of effective control measures and tools through inter-institutional or sectoral coordination and cooperation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment and Energy</p>
BUDGET	RELEVANT ARTICLES	DURATION
 <p><b>\$ 240,000</b> Applicant contribution: USD 103,783</p>	 <p>Article 8 – Emissions Article 9 - Releases Article 12 - Contaminated sites</p>	 <p><b>2021-2024</b></p>

# PROJECT RESULTS



## OUTPUT 1

Point sources of emissions and releases of mercury identified

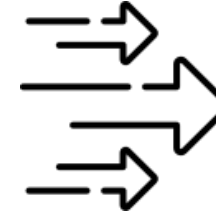
### IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCES

23 UNITS  
CONSULTED

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND ENERGY

22 UNITS  
CONSULTED

DECENTRALIZED  
AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENTS



**1327**  
projects



**8,15 %**

They exceed the  
**LIMITS**



**2013**

Hg concentration  
data



**161**

HG monitoring  
records

### IDENTIFICATION OF PROCESSES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

**29** Industries visited nationwide



# PROJECT RESULTS

## BAT AND BEP TECHNICAL GUIDE

Provides a comprehensive analysis of the best processes, infrastructure, technologies, and environmental practices that can be adopted in Ecuador to reduce the risks associated with mercury.

GUÍA TÉCNICA SOBRE LOS MEJORES PROCESOS, INFRAESTRUCTURAS, BUENAS PRÁCTICAS AMBIENTALES Y/O TECNOLOGÍAS PARA LA REDUCCIÓN Y/O ELIMINACIÓN DE EMISIONES Y LIBERACIONES DE MERCURIO AL AMBIENTE

PROYECTO DE FORTALECIMIENTO DE CAPACIDADES EN LA IMPLEMENTACIÓN DEL CONVENIO DE MINAMATA SOBRE EL MERCURIO EN ECUADOR.



## CONTAMINATED SITES

DATA	260	WASTE
	1765	HYDROCARBONS
	7748	MINING

**The identified sites do not have a Hg concentration analysis.**

## GUIDE

It establishes specific criteria for identifying and prioritizing sites requiring immediate intervention, details methodologies for assessing the extent and magnitude of contamination, as well as guidelines for analyzing associated risks to human health, and finally offers strategies for restoring the environmental quality of affected sites.



ESTRATEGIAS PARA PRIORIZAR, CARACTERIZAR, Y SEGÚN PROCEDA, REHABILITAR SITIOS CONTAMINADOS CON MERCURIO EN EL ECUADOR



## OUTPUT 2

Strengthening capacity to address the management of identified sources of mercury emissions and releases.





## OUTPUT 3

Review of the national regulatory framework and formulation of proposals to address regulatory deficiencies in order to comply with the obligations of the Minamata Convention.

### IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY GAPS

- The need for legal reforms and the implementation of new policies to ensure proper management of mercury and protect public health and the environment is highlighted.
- Ministerial Agreement 097 A (maximum permissible limits) for specific pollutants from stationary combustion sources, such as cement production and metal smelting. It does not include a reference value for mercury.



### PREPARATION OF LEGAL PROPOSALS

- Preparation of the technical support that establishes the maximum permissible limits of mercury in the manufacture of cement clinker and the smelting of non-ferrous metals
- The need to strengthen the capacities and accreditations of laboratories in the country to effectively monitor mercury emissions from fixed sources was identified, thus establishing a solid foundation for subsequent regulatory updates.





## IMPACTS AND NEXT STEPS

### MEDIUM TERM

- Availability of systematized information.
- Improved environmental monitoring and oversight capacity, allowing for prioritizing actions at critical sources.
- Gradual implementation of industrial best practices, with emissions reductions in key sectors (smelting, cement, incineration, etc.).
- Updated standards and regulations, incorporating mercury control parameters.
- Building local capacity in universities and technical consulting firms to implement the guidelines.
- Initiation of accreditation processes for analytical laboratories and institutional strengthening for specialized monitoring.

### LONG TERM

- Creation of a sustainable national mercury emissions and release control system, with geospatial and temporal information that will serve as a baseline for future regulations and action plans.
- Progressive reduction of emissions and releases through improved technologies and regulatory control.
- Progressive technological transformation in emitting industrial sectors, with the incorporation of cleaner infrastructure.
- Remediation of priority contaminated sites, improving environmental and public health conditions.
- Establishment of a robust and permanent regulatory framework aligned with international standards.

### NEXT STEPS

- The State should assume a post-project leadership role, institutionalizing tools, strengthening capacities, closing regulatory gaps, and mobilizing resources to implement the national action plan developed as a result of the project.



**MINAMATA**  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

Project funded  
by the Specific  
International Programme

# **Strengthening National Capacity for Phasing Out Mercury-added Products and Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Consisting of, Contaminated with and Containing Mercury in Sri Lanka**

**Funded by: Specific International Programme**

**Implemented by: Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka**



# Project Overview

Build capacity for the phase-out of mercury-added products and the Environmentally Sound Management of elemental mercury and wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with mercury in Sri Lanka.



# Scope

**Output 1:** Establish Institutional setup for project implementation

**Output 2:** Develop a report on mercury-free alternatives with their costs and benefits, & recommendations for future policy directives

**Output 3:** National technical guideline on Environmentally Sound Management of mercury waste by adapting the content of “Basel Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds” to local conditions

**Output 4:** Trained and raised awareness of employees from health, industrial, & education sectors, mercury equipment suppliers, & the general public on health & environmental impacts of elemental mercury & wastes containing or contaminated with mercury & their management

**Output 5:** Disseminate information on the success of the project at the UNEP-organized international Forum

# Output 1: Establish Institutional setup for project implementation

- The Project Steering Committee and the Technical Committee were established
  - Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Environment Policy & Planning) of the Ministry of Environment
- The Technical Committee reviewed and evaluated technical aspects of the deliverables

## Steering Committee Representatives

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Industries
- Central Environmental Authority
- National Gem & Jewellery Authority
- Gem & Jewellery Research and Training Institute
- Industrial Technology Institute
- Consumer Affairs Authority
- Imports and Exports Control Department
- National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
- Centre for Environmental Justice

## **Output 2: Develop a report on mercury-free alternatives with their costs and benefits & recommendations for future policy directives**

- Carried out the survey on mercury-containing products and processes available in the market under the Industry, Education, & Health sectors.
- Prepared a list of mercury-free alternative products or processes available locally or internationally in relation to Industry, Education, Health & Household sectors.
- Carried out the Cost-Benefit analysis related to all identified mercury-free alternative products and processes in Industry, Health, Education & Household sectors.

# Alternatives

Hg Compound	Alternatives
Mercury chloride	Magnesium chloride or zinc
Mercury iodine	Formalin
Mercury nitrate	Freeze drying
Mercury oxide	Phenate method
Mercury sulfate	Ammonia, copper sulfate, Neosporin, mycin copper catalyst, silver nitrate, potassium, or chromium sulfate
Mercury (II) Oxide	Copper catalyst
Mercury (II) Chloride	Magnesium Chloride/Sulfuric Acid or Zinc Formalin, Freeze drying
Mercury (II) Sulfate	Silver Nitrate/Potassium/Chromium-(III) Sulfate
Mercury Nitrate (for corrosion of copper alloys) for antifungal use (mercurochrome)	Ammonia/Copper Sulfate Neosporin, Mycin
Mercury Iodide	Phenate method
Zenker's Solution	Zinc Formalin

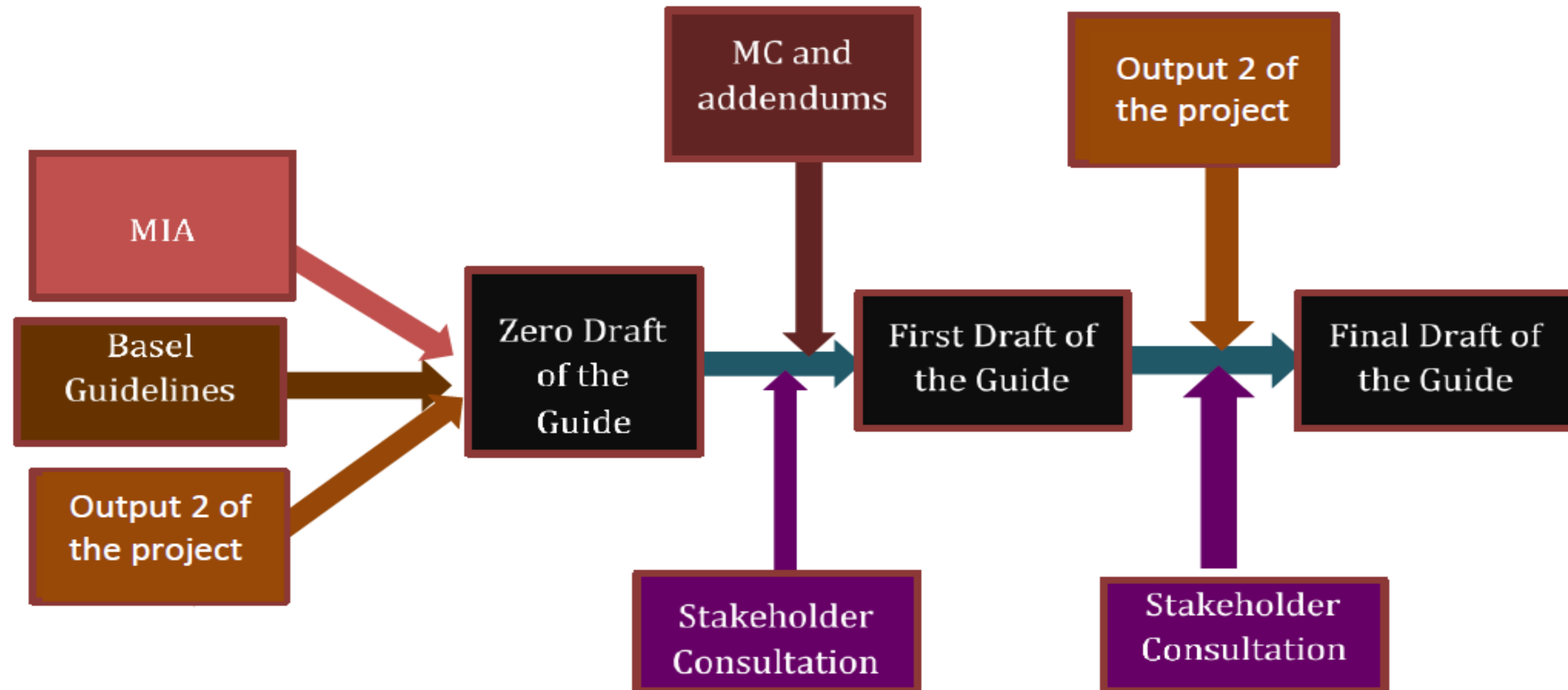
# Pilot Demonstration - Mercury Free Alternatives

- **Target Location:** Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children (LRH), a specialized pediatric government hospital, was selected due to children's vulnerability to mercury.
- **Initial Status:** Hospital used both mercury-free and mercury-containing equipment (sphygmomanometers, thermometers, CFL bulbs).
- **Replacements Provided:** The project facilitated the purchase and replacement of equipment with mercury-free alternatives:
  - 120 Aneroid BP Apparatus (replacing mercury sphygmomanometers)
  - 200 Digital Thermometers (replacing mercury thermometers)
  - 1,400 LED Bulbs (replacing CFL bulbs)
- **Waste Management:** Facilitated the recycling of 295.6 kg of discarded CFL bulbs from the hospital.



# Output 3: National technical guideline on Environmentally Sound Management of mercury waste

**Objective:** To support Sri Lanka's commitment to the Minamata Convention by providing comprehensive guidance on the responsible management of mercury throughout its life cycle



# Output 4: Trained and raised awareness of employees from health, industrial & education sectors, mercury equipment suppliers & enlightened the general public on health and environmental impacts

**Objective:** To provide training and awareness on the adaptation of alternatives to the use of mercury and proper management of mercury, mercury-containing products, equipment, and waste

- Developed a training curriculum with 6 modules covering:
  - Introduction to Chemical Management, Mercury Sources, Health Effects
  - Use of Technical Guideline, Mercury-free Alternatives
  - Mercury Spill Management
  - Mercury Waste Management (packaging, storage, transport, disposal)
- Implemented a systematic approach to measure relevance, instructional effectiveness, knowledge impact, and satisfaction
- 20 training programmes and 25 awareness programmes were conducted
- Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes - 116 participants, Health sector training -141, Industry sector training - 210, Education sector training - 169, and participants in awareness sessions - 659
- The majority of participants, particularly officials from government agencies, were female

## Key Challenges - Health Sector

- Private health institutions continue to procure mercury-containing thermometers and pressure meters.
- Disposal of waste mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers remains unresolved.
- Unusable mercury-containing CFL and fluorescent tubes pose a problem due to the lack of a disposal system.
- Gaps exist in health staff awareness on mercury spill management, and government health institutions lack spill management kits

## Key Challenges - Industry Sector

- The National Medicine Regulatory Authority (NMRA) controls the quality of cosmetics in Sri Lanka, and it sets a maximum mercury level of 1 mg/kg or 1 ppm. Infrastructure is limited
- Implementation of the National Environmental (Protection & Quality) Regulations for wastewater discharge and Management of mercury-contaminated sludge
- Restoration of contaminated sites due to discharge of waste in Small-scale jewelry manufacturing sector
- Current cosmetics quality testing is limited to manufacturers/importers, lacking a mechanism for random quality checks
- Challenge in controlling the online import of mercury-containing cosmetics and related products

## Key Challenges - Education Sector

- Mercury Country Situation Report (2018) revealed that 1817.85 kg of metallic mercury was imported to Sri Lanka in 2016, with distribution among the education sector (laboratories), health sector (preparation of Ayurvedic drugs), and the industrial sector (Artisanal Gold Waste Recovery). However, the specific data on the amount delivered to the education sector was not reported
- Toxic waste management, particularly related to mercury-containing waste, has been given the least priority in the national waste management planning context
- Responsible authorities collect and store mercury-containing waste (e.g., broken thermometers) in designated areas within premises
- Liquid wastes, including those containing mercury, are either discharged into common wastewater drains or stored within the premises

**THANK YOU**



## Project

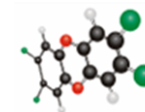
"Strengthening national capacities to implement the Minamata Mercury Convention with a focus on developing a strategy to identify contaminated sites"

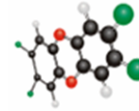
*POPs Unit*

*Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning  
North Macedonia*



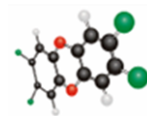
MAKE  
MERCURY  
HISTORY





## Initial steps towards implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury – Active Participation of the Macedonian Government

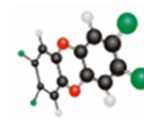
- 2007–2008: Meetings of the Working Group to Review and Assess Measures Related to Mercury Management at the Global Level
- 2009: UNEP Governing Council adopts Decision 25/5 on the Preparation of a Global Mercury Document
- 2010 to 2013: Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee works in five sessions on the negotiations of the Mercury Convention
- October 2013: Diplomatic Conference in Kumamoto, the Minamata convention on Mercury have been adopted
- July 2014: The Republic of Macedonia signed the Minamata convention on Mercury
- 2016 – 2018: Preparation of the Initial Assessment on Mercury in the Republic of Macedonia
- February 2020: Law on Ratification of the Minamata convention on Mercury has been adopted (OG No.34/2020)



## Project: "Minamata Initial Assessment on mercury in the Republic of Macedonia" (2016-2018)

- Mercury inventory and identification of sources of emissions and releases
- Status of the Institutional and Legal Framework relevant to mercury management in the country
- Identification of the population under risk and the gender aspects.
- Awareness raising of the professionals and the general population
- Identification of the capacities to provide training and education for the relevant target groups and professionals
- Key priority sector – Definition of the priorities of the mercury management – integrating the sound management of chemicals in the national, regional and sectoral development
- Future steps for ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention

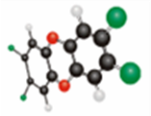




## Minamata Convention on Mercury - Key sectors

### Key sectors relevant for management and dealing with the emission sources and the pollution from mercury :

- ❖ National Institutional Framework (Government Institutions, Local and regional and public institutions)
- ❖ Business sector (Industry, small and medium enterprises, production and service )
- ❖ General population (NGO, consumers / civil society/ media)
- ❖ International involvement and support (membership in multinational organizations , support by the international financial institutions/funds)



## Specific International Programme - Third Round

Project ID: 2021/03/CEE/MKD

Country/Region: North Macedonia / Eastern European States

Project "Strengthening national capacities to implement the Minamata Mercury Convention with a focus on developing a strategy to identify contaminated sites"

Organization/Institution delivering the project: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Duration: 42 months

Total Amount: USD 238,500

PCA starting date: 08.06.2022

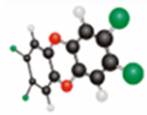
PCA ending date: 07.12.2025





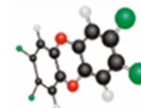
## Project

# "Strengthening national capacities to implement the Minamata Mercury Convention with a focus on developing a strategy to identify contaminated sites"



## Completed activities

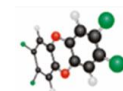
- The inception workshop has been organized on 17 October 2022.
- Thematic workshop on Inventory update on 11.04.2023
- The final version of the updated Inventory Report have been submitted in February 2024
- Priority Validation Workshop have been held on 18.04.2024
- Report on setting up of national priorities for environmental sound mercury management in the country submitted end of May 2024
- Workshop for defining National Action Plans for the most prioritized sources of mercury in the country on 23.04.2025
- Draft National Implementation plan developed and currently under consultation with stakeholders for final completion of the document.
- Prepared the documentation for publishing a call for experts to develop Strategy for identification of sites contaminated with mercury (May 2025)
- Prepared the documentation for publishing a bidding process for pilot identification /site investigation of the highest prioritized site on contamination with Mercury (June 2025)
- National Coordinating Meeting of the National Committee for chemicals and waste (September 2025)



# Current status of the transposition of the measures of the Minamata Convention for mercury in the national legislation

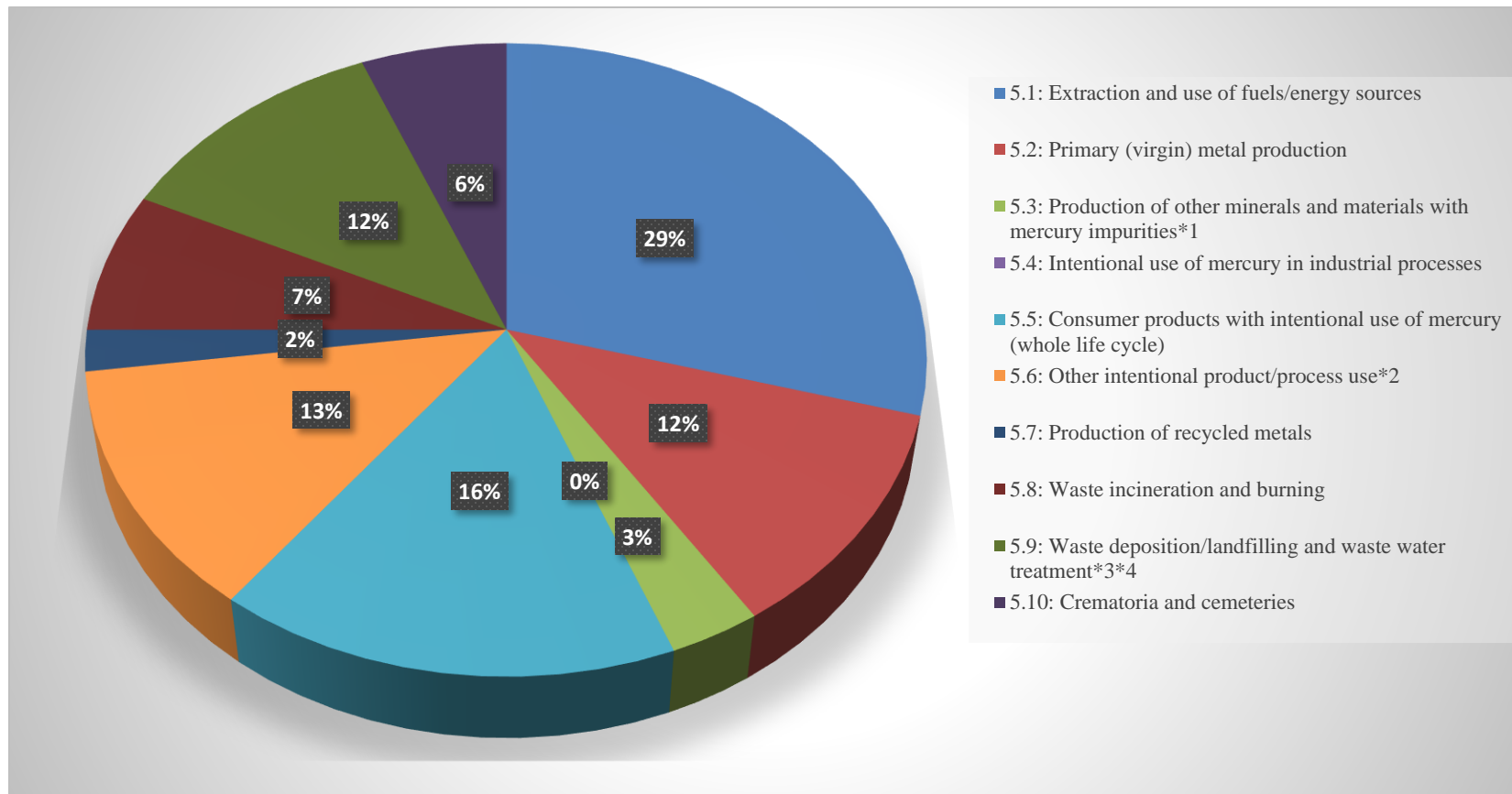
Measure	Status of transposition	National legislation	Gap
Purpose	Completely	LE, LAAQ, LN, LWM, LW, LWEEE, LWBA, LPH, OHSL,	/
Definitions	Partially	LE, LMR	Mercury Products with added mercury
Sources of mercury supply and trade	Partially	LC	Ban on mercury mining; Identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds
Products with added mercury	Completely	LC, LWEEE, LWBA	/
Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds	Partially	LE, LAAQ, LW, LRC-TAPHM	Prohibition and restriction of production processes in which Hg or Hg-compounds are used
Emissions	Completely	LE, LAAQ, LW, LRC-TAPHM	/
Releases of Hg	Partially	LE, LW	Releases of mercury to soil/land; ELV's for soil
Environmentally, friendly, and healthy temporary storage of non-waste mercury	Completely	LE, LC	/
Waste mercury	Partially	LWM	Management with waste mercury
Contaminated locations	Completely	LE	/
Health aspects	Completely	LPH, HSL	/
Information, awareness, and public education	Completely	LE	/
Implementation plans	No	/	

# Results of the Inventory on the mercury releases

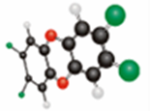


The total mercury release in the country for the year of 2021 is 1.246 kg/y.

The waste deposition/landfilling and waste is 52% of the total mercury releases) or 1.109,4 kg Hg/y.



The second most significant source of mercury release is the extraction and use of fuels/energy sources sector and production of recycled metals with total release of 341 kg Hg/y (16% contribution in total mercury releases), followed by consumer products with intentional use of mercury (whole life cycle) with release of 190 kg Hg/y (9%).



## Results of the Inventory on the mercury releases

The sub-category with the highest amount of mercury released in society for 2021 is informal dumping of general waste with 567,9 kg, followed by waste water system /treatment with 538,9 kg and coal combustion in power plants with 285,1 kg.

Results from the mercury inventory (Level 2) provided information on four different output pathways for mercury:

- 1) Emissions to air,
- 2) Direct releases to water,
- 3) Direct releases to land, and
- 4) Others, which includes output pathways for by-products, general waste and sector-specific waste treatment.

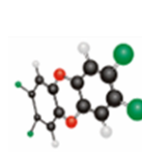


The leading output of the released mercury by all source categories/subcategories is in the air, with total amount of the 532 kg Hg/y (42,7%), followed by land and water with 157 kg Hg/y (12,6 %) and 156 kg Hg/y (12,5 %), respectively.

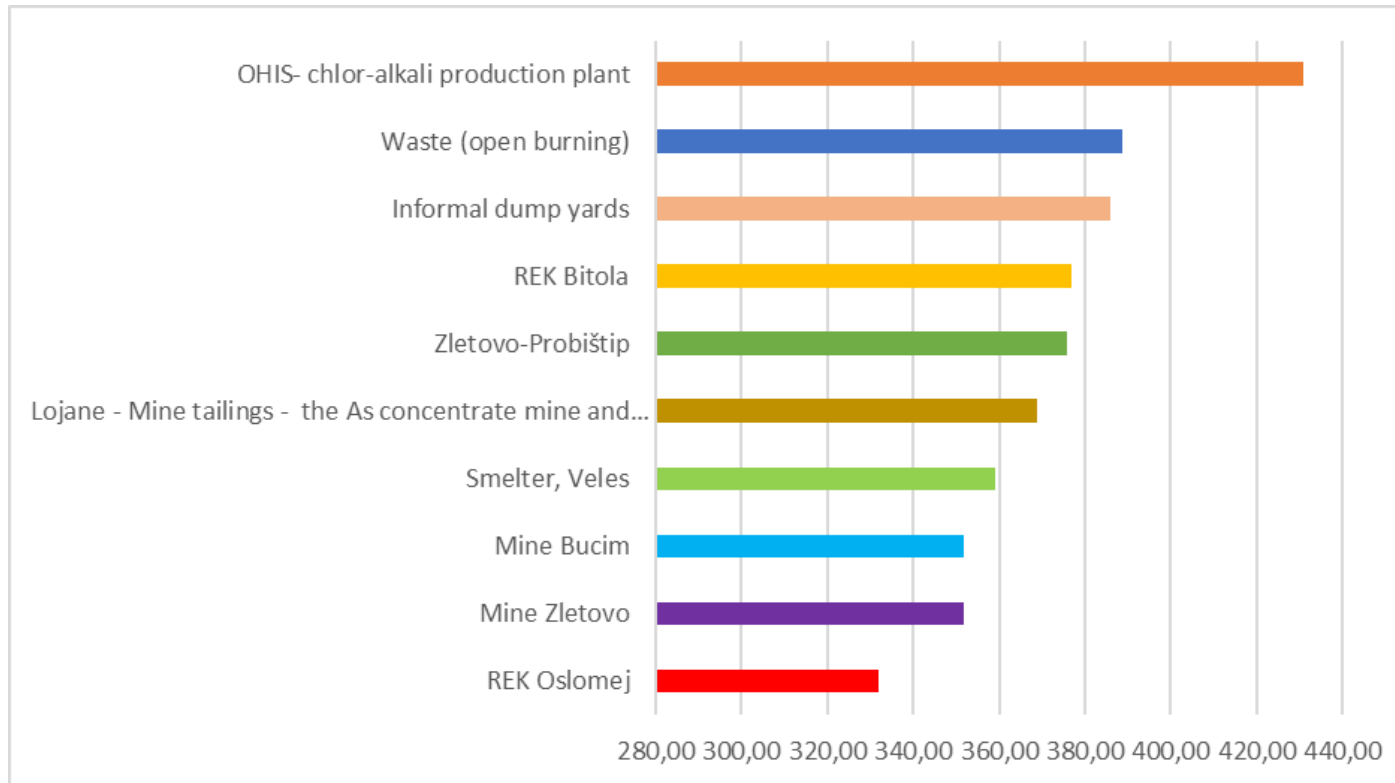
## Prioritization of the most urgent mercury sources based on the Inventory results

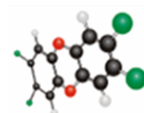
Criteria-Based Matrix (CBM) was used to determine which individual mercury source has the highest priority for action development





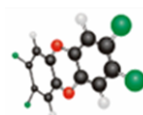
## List of prioritized individual mercury sources in the country





# National Implementation plan on Minamata Convention in the Republic of N Macedonia

Actions	Type of actions	Time frame	Responsible institution	Estimated budget (MKD)	Possible source of financing	Expected results	Indicators of success	Frequency of monitoring
Conduct a detailed inventory and quantification of the amounts of Hg in relevant contaminated sites	Operational activities	2024-2030	MoEPP		Governmental budget and possible EU and non EU funds	Conducted detailed inventory (all sources located, the entire life cycle of products analyzed, chemicals and quantification of the amounts of Hg)	Activities for collecting data from all relevant stakeholders in order to implement a detailed inventory and quantification of the amounts of Hg	Each two years
Identification of areas contaminated with Hg - mapping, Assessment and analysis of surface soil, groundwater and waste composition in accredited laboratories, Proposed measures for remediation of contaminated areas in accordance with BAT	Operational activities / Data updating on contaminated sites throughout the country	2024-2028	MoEPP Local and regional landfills Municipal Inspectorates (communal and inspectors for environment)		Governmental budget and possible EU and non EU funds	Identified areas contaminated with (pesticides and unintentional POPs), an analysis of soil and groundwater remediation measures proposed on contaminated area according to BAT	Number of contaminated areas, the degree of contamination of soils, Application of proposed measures for remediation of contaminated areas in accordance with BAT	Annually
Continuous updating the inventory of Hg and products that contain Hg in RNM	Operational activity / update data	2024 - 2030	MoEPP		Governmental budget and possible EU and non EU funds	Updated inventory of Hg and products that contain Hg in RNM	Number of new sources of Hg in RNM identified and calculated their volumes included in the inventory of Hg in RNM	Continuous



## Identified gaps in the implementation of the Minamata Convention

Adequate implementation of the Minamata Convention for mercury in the country needs involvement of many institutions, each of their own jurisdiction.

Based on the current set up the following gaps have been identified:

- There is a lack of intersectoral cooperation and coordination between the various competent authorities involved in the transposition and implementation of legislation;
- Lack of financial resources for the smooth implementation of all the aspects of the Convention;
- Weak records of data on cross-border transport of waste;
- Insufficient involvement of industry and the private sector (small and medium enterprises) in mercury management



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

Project funded  
by the Specific  
International Programme

Република Северна Македонија

Министерство за животна средина  
и просторно планирање



Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut

Ministria e Mjedisit Jetësor  
dhe Planifikimit Hapësinor

## Thank you for your attention

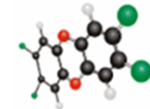
Suzana Andonova

Official Minamata National Focal Point

Project Coordinator

POPs Unit/ Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

[s.andonova@pops.org.mk](mailto:s.andonova@pops.org.mk)



REPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE  
Travail – Partie – Liberté



REPUBLIQUE SENEGAL  
Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi



REPUBLIQUE BURKINA FASO  
Un Peuple – Un But – Une Foi



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

Project funded  
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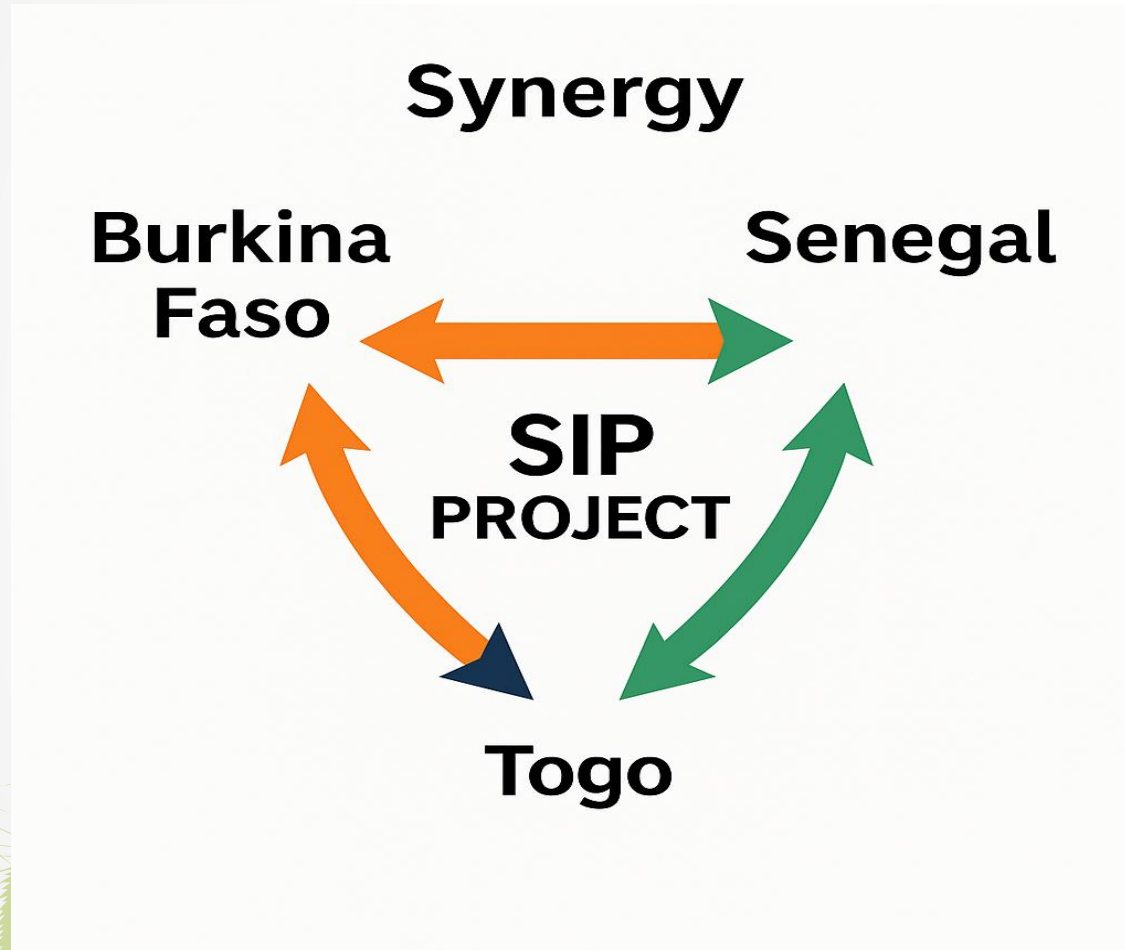
# The SIP: A Catalyst for Implementing the Minamata Convention in West Africa

Pathe DIEYE,

SIP project focal point with colleagues Kayi Ajavon, Bathiono Barthelemy

[padieye2001@yahoo.fr](mailto:padieye2001@yahoo.fr) or [pathe.dieye@environnement.gouv.sn](mailto:pathe.dieye@environnement.gouv.sn)

# A modest project, a global impact



- First project of the Minamata Convention bringing together three countries in West Africa (Togo, Burkina Faso, and Senegal);
- SIP positioning Minamata mercury Convention: the most dynamic environmental convention in the three countries mentioned by the Burkina Faso director during the regionals meeting.

# Global Impact

- **First Minamata project to attempt synergy with the WHO on dental amalgam:**
  - ✓ WHO supported the participation of the Minamata focal point, also the SIP focal point, for its participation in the Global Event in Bangkok (2024). The SIP supported the participation of the GEF7 project focal point on dental amalgam in ministry of Health during the workshop to develop the mercury decree, which included the dental amalgam component in Togo.
- **Proposal to the Senegalese Minister of the Environment of an African declaration for the elimination of dental amalgam in pregnant women and children under 15 years of age, which was subsequently adopted at AMCEN-2.**

# African Impact: A Model of South-South Cooperation

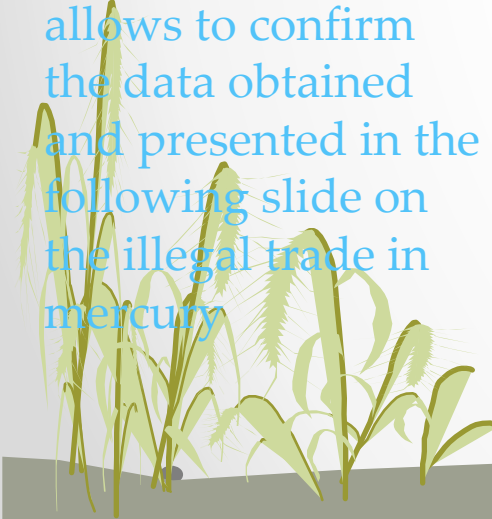
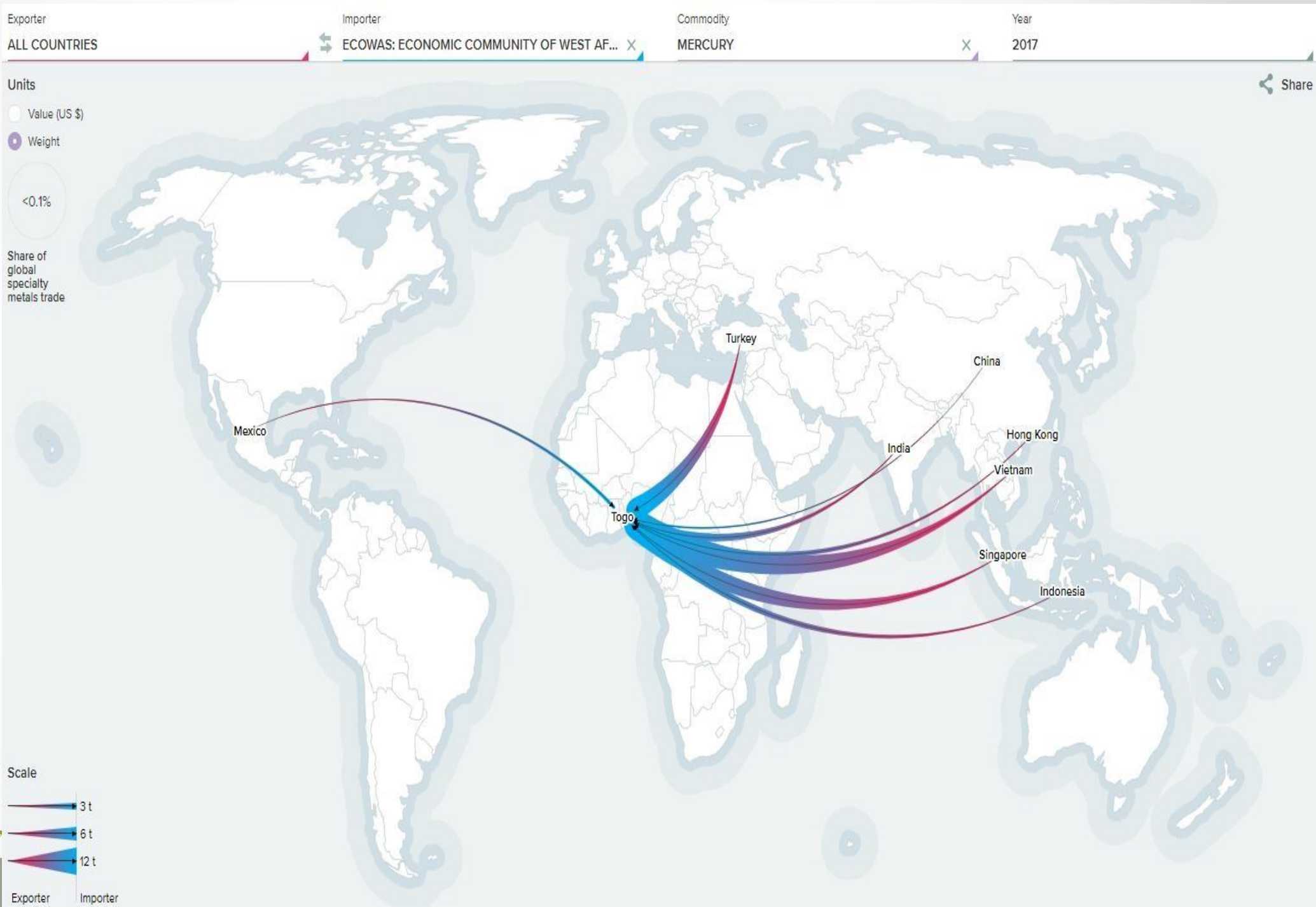
- 3 ECOWAS countries = harmonized legal framework (diapo 7);
- New data: 90% of West African mercury comes from the Emirates (via Togo) (diapo 6);
- Creation of a sub-regional database on mercury trade (data base available in the SIP report).



# MERCURY FLOW INTO AFRICA ASGM

MAP: main countries supplying mercury according to the COMTRADE database ((ARM and AGEREF/CL, 2019)

allows to confirm the data obtained and presented in the following slide on the illegal trade in mercury



# Statistic data of Illegal trade in mercury

Pays d'origine	Nbre d'envoi				Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024 (janvier au 06 juin 2024)	
Emirats Arabes Unis	6	8	33	8	55
Cuba	0	1	0	0	1
Chine	5	1	0	0	6
Maroc	0	0	0	1	1
Nigéria	0	0	1	0	1
Inde	6	0	0	0	6

# Concrete Results in the 3 countries (2022-2025)

- **3 national decrees + technical orders** (batteries, lamps, cosmetics, amalgams, etc.);
- **206 agents trained** (customs, inspectors, laboratories);
- **30%** (vs. regional average below 20%), (62 women trained and 144 men);
- **20 IEC (information, education and formation) workshops**, **3,000** people indirectly reached.



# Laboratory equipment



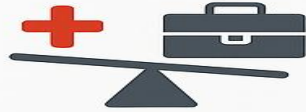
**SENEGAL**



**BURKINA FASO**

# SIP Vision and Legacy

## **An African model of regulatory, scientific, and technical cooperation**



**A lever for transforming public policies**  
(health, environment, trade, justice, etc.)



**A catalytic project: mobilizing academics, NGOs, Customs, and professional associations**



**A solid foundation for an ambitious future regional mercury elimination project**

# Perspectives



**Bangkok statement carried by the two focal points**

Develop a large-scale program funded by GEF 9 and leveraging all synergies, such as those currently being developed with WHO and SIP;

Equip regulatory agencies with sufficient mercury detectors, create a mercury observatory, and strengthen borders on a large scale.





**“Our three countries dedicate this SIP Project to Marianne Bailey, the visionary who initiated it and guided us along the path to its fulfillment. With respect and gratitude, we say:**

**Thank you,  
Marianne.”**

**THANK YOU  
SECRETARIAT**

